Oil painting - Trompe l'oeil with Writing Materials

Object: Oil painting
Place of origin: London (made)
Date: ca.1702 (painted)
Artist/Maker: Colyer, Edwaert (painter (artist))
Materials and Techniques: Oil on canvas
Credit Line: Purchased from the funds of the F. R. Bryan Bequest
Museum number: P.23-1951
Gallery location: In Storage

Public access description
A Dutch painter possibly of English descent, Edwaert Colyer (who later anglicised his name to Edward Collier) worked in Leiden and later Amsterdam. He moved to London in 1693, where he worked until 1706. During this period in London he was active as a painter of still lives and trompes l'oeil. This trompe-l'oeil painting is a virtuoso representation of the painter's skill at making a flat surface appear three-dimensional. Objects represented are a letter rack with writing materials including a quill, sticks of sealing wax, a stamp and a paper knife. There is also a folded news sheet, a copy of the almanac Apollo Anglicanus and a medal representing Charles I. These three items allude to the accession of Queen Anne, which occurred on 8 March 1702 (1701 old style). Collier's signature appears as an inscription on a folded sheet of paper.

Descriptive line
Oil painting, 'Trompe l'oeil with Writing Materials', Edwaert Colyer, late 17th century

Physical description
Trompe l'oeil painting

Dimensions
Height: 51.5 cm, Width: 63.7 cm, Height: 630 mm frame, Width: 800 mm frame, Depth: 55 mm frame

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Object history note
Purchased from the dealer Robert Frank, 1951

URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O17810/trompe-loeil-with-writing-materials-oil-painting-colyer-edwaert/